

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25018 261905Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SCA-01 A-01 PER-03 SY-05 USSS-00 SS-15

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R 261938Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3555

UNCLAS PARIS 25018

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

1. GROUP OF ABOUT 50 WORKERS OF OHMIC COMPANY MARCHED PEACEFULLY IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY FOR ABOUT ONE-HALF HOUR MORNING OF 26 TO PROTEST LAYOFFS DIRECTED BY AMERICAN PARENT COMPANY, BOURNS INC., 1200 COLUMBIA AVE., RIVERSIDE, CAL. 92507.

2. OHMIC, WHICH WAS BOUGHT BY BOURNS IN 1970, IS MANUFACTURER OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS WITH ONE PLANT IN PARIS EMPLOYING 80 WORKERS AND ANOTHER IN LE MANS EMPLOYING AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR 450 WORKERS. IN MARCH THERE WERE 120 WORKERS LAID OFF IN LE MANS AND RECENTLY NOTICES HAVE BEEN SERVED FOR THE LAYING OFF OF ANOTHER 150. IN ADDITION, BOURNS HAS DECIDED TO CLOSE ENTIRELY PARIS PLANT WITH RESULT OF TERMINATION OF ITS 80 EMPLOYEES. MARCHERS HAD COME FROM LE MANS TO PROTEST SECOND WAVE OF LAYOFFS AND CARRIED SIGNS HOLDING BOURNS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR LOSS OF JOBS.

3. THIS IS FIRST TIME EMBASSY BECAME A TARGET OF PROTEST BY WORKERS OF AMERICAN COMPANIES THREATENED WITH LOSS OF JOBS. LE MANS HAS A REPUTATION FOR THE MILITANCY OF ITS LABOR FORCE WHICH EXPLAINS INITIATIVE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 25018 261905Z

OF OHMIC WORKERS TO COME TO THE EMBASSY, ESPECIALLY

SINCE THEY SUSPECT THAT LE MANS PLANT IS PROBABLY
HEADED FOR THE SAME FATE AS THE ONE IN PARIS. COMPANY
OFFICIAL REFUSED TO DENY OR CONFIRM SUCH EVENTUALITY.
RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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